

scope. For example, West Virginia has 6,213 miles of impaired waters, 69 percent of which, are caused by mine drainage. In both Maryland and New Jersey greater than 25 percent of all surface waters are considered impaired. In New Jersey 76 percent of the impaired waters have impaired aquatic life. New York State has 3,324 miles of impaired waters. Connecticut has 4,119 miles of impaired streams and coastline. Vermont has 757 miles of impaired streams and 21,376 acres of impaired lakes, 43 percent of these have impaired aquatic life. New Hampshire and Maine combined have 3,588 miles of impaired streams/coastline and over 290,000 acres of impaired lakes. Correcting these problems will require both innovative solutions and a broad ecosystem based approach that considers both the waterways, and the land issues contributing to water degradation.

The intent of this legislative proposal is to establish a pilot program, with broad authority for comprehensive restoration in the Appalachian, New England, and Mid-Atlantic Regions of the United States. This authority will begin to address the longstanding problems of abandoned mine drainage and other non-point sources of pollution currently impairing water quality and species diversity on the region. The program is intended to provide seamless authority for the Corps of Engineers to plan, design and implement small ecosystem restoration projects in cooperation with non-Federal partners including States, local Governments and non-profit organizations. The cost sharing provisions of this authority are consistent with other Corps of Engineers continuing authorities and include innovative provisions to allow pilot testing of innovative technologies, allow non-Federal sponsorship by non-profit organizations, and allow non-Federal sponsors credit for in-kind services performed during the feasibility study phase of a project.

The total cost of the proposed legislation over the authorized six year term is \$200,000,000. This amount will not solve the regions' total ecosystem restoration needs but it will contribute substantially to meeting these needs and add to the overall non-Federal efforts currently in process. The estimated benefits of this program include improved water quality, restored ecosystem habitat and increased species diversity, both aquatic and terrestrial, economic benefits associated with restoration of stream and river fisheries, and other intangible benefits to communities associated with the visual improvement of environmental surroundings. This program will also provide much needed technical assistance to States and local communities in the assessment of environmental problems and the development of restoration strategies using the Corps' state of the art watershed modeling techniques and experience gained in environmental restoration.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST THE UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 11, 2002*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of the events of September 11th.

One year ago America suffered a horrible act of terrorism in New York, at the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania. Four planes, filled with innocent Americans, were turned into weapons at the hands of men filled with anger and hate, intent on bringing death and destruction to our great country. It is a day none of us will ever forget.

As the United States moves forward, we must remember those who died on September 11th, as well as the acts of heroism, valor and courage displayed on that day and the weeks and months to follow. I continue to find inspiration in the efforts of all Americans who risked their lives to save and heal their neighbors, co-workers, and strangers in need.

Let us also not forget the men and women in our armed forces who today are engaged in a campaign against terrorism, fighting to protect our freedom and seeking justice against those who attacked us. Their continued valor is a testament to the will and resolve of our great nation.

We will continue to pray for the victims and their families as we re-build the communities affected by those terrible acts of violence. Today, one year after this horrific act of terrorism, we, as Americans, re-affirm our highest beliefs in freedom, democracy and justice.

MARKING THE 14TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLOODY RISE TO POWER OF MILITARY DICTATORSHIP IN BURMA

**HON. LANE EVANS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2002*

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today marks the fourteenth anniversary of the bloody rise to power of the military dictatorship in Burma. This despotic regime has denied its people basic liberties and freedoms including democratic representation, free speech, and an independent press. Allegations have also come to light that this regime has used the mass rape of women and children to instill fear. They have imprisoned and murdered thousands of their political opponents and closed thirty universities since 1995 to suppress popular student opposition.

I would like to speak specifically to the issue of labor rights in Burma. It is an undisputed fact that the Government of Burma has forced thousands of its citizens into forced labor. Bonded servitude is woven into the social fabric of many nations, but in Burma it is even more contemptuous because it is nothing more than slavery at its core and it is sanctioned by the government and employed by its military.

For many years, international organizations including the International Labor Organization, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, and the United Nations Commission on Human Rights have attempted to get the regime to emancipate its slaves. Burma has flaunted international sanctions and continues to be uncooperative and deny access to human rights organizations investigating these and many other human rights abuses.

Burma's military regime emphatically rejects core labor rights including prohibitions on child labor, forced labor, and freedom of association. This is even more disconcerting because the military elite prop up a system of sweatshops producing textile products for western markets. Even under strict quotas, Burmese textile exports have exploded into the U.S. market creating a direct source of hard currency for the military dictatorship. And there are credible allegations being investigated that many goods skirt sanctions by masking their country of origin.

Textile exports are the life support for the Burmese regime and we need a complete ban on Burmese exports until we see freedom and an end to slavery. I commend my colleagues and the Administration that have stood up for human rights in Burma and kept the pressure on the regime. Now is not the time to relax sanctions, but instead tighten the noose on one of the world's worst totalitarian governments.

SBA 504 AND 7(A) LOAN PROGRAM SUBSIDY RATE CALCULATION

**HON. DARRELL E. ISSA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 18, 2002*

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because I am concerned about the effects of an unjust tax on borrowers. Every time the Small Business Administration makes a 504 or 7(a) loan, the borrower pays an arbitrary and unnecessary fee.

The subsidy rates for the 504 and 7(a) have not reflected the actual performance of these loan portfolios over the past 11 years since the passage of the Credit Reform Act in 1990. The House Small Business Committee has repeatedly raised this issue with the Office of Management and Budget. OMB continues to use a flawed methodology to determine the cost of these loan programs to the government and SBA borrowers are forced to pay excessive fees that, since 1999, have totaled nearly \$2 billion.

Today, the typical SBA 504 borrower pays more than \$10,000 in excess fees and the typical 7(a) borrower pays more than \$2000 in excess fees to the government because OMB fails to accurately determine the subsidy rates of these loans. Congress never gave OMB the right to impose a \$10,000 tax on every 504 borrower or a \$2000 tax on every 7(a) borrower. Yet that is what OMB is doing by continually overstating these subsidy rates.

The SBA is responsible for more than 40 percent of all long-term lending to small businesses. The inability of OMB to accurately estimate the cost of subsidizing small business loans draws needed resources from the very businesses these programs are intended to assist.